

The Cornell Homestead
"Northwood"
Somerset Street, Raritan
Somerset County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-333

HABS
NJ
18-RAR
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

HABS
N.J.
18-RAR.
2-

The Cornell Homestead
"Northwood"
Somerset Street, Raritan
Somerset County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Ida Glazier

Date of Erection: Wing 1740 (?); main unit 1840 (?)

Architect:

Builder: Main section built by Richard B. Duyckinck (?)

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Main unit two stories plus the
attic; wing two stories

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame
construction; on south and
east elevations of wing are
to be found some of the
original beaded clapboards

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - main unit hip; wing
barrel

Historical Data:

According to Snell, the third quarter of a
large tract that was originally assigned to James Graham
was conveyed to Peter Van Nest in 1693. He sold to
Derrick Middagh in 1734. He states that George Middagh

kept a tavern from 1750-1756 where Mrs. F.F. Cornell now lives, and that town meetings were held at his house. Rosalie Bailey states that on Irskine's Revolutionary Map is a house marked Colonel Frelinghuysen which she says may be the Frelinghuysen Homestead or may be the house occupied by Cornelius Middagh; however, she takes it that the old Middagh house and the General John Frelinghuysen House (NJ-332) are the same, whereas Snell's account would lead us to believe that the Cornell House was the Middagh House or at least stood where the Middagh House originally was.

The property was purchased by the Reverend Frederick Frelinghuysen Cornell in 1852 from Richard F. Duycknick who is thought to be the builder of the main unit. The members of the Cornell family believe that the kitchen wing was occupied by the Middagh family; if that is so, then it was formerly used as a tavern. The present owner Mrs. Ida Glazier obtained possession in 1924 from the Cornell Estate.

Bibliography:

Snell, James P. The History of Hunterdon and Somerset Counties Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1881

Bailey, F. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York William Porrow and Company, 1936

Material obtained from Mrs. A. A. G. Hardwick (nee Cornell) of Somerville and from Walter Grator, Somerset County Clerk, by Walter D. Terrill

Walter C. Rath

Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams

SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

8/30/37